

On and About the Farm

A RAILROAD A MISSIONARY

The Frisco Is Spending \$40,000 Spreading Good Roads Gospel.

A good roads special train, with expert road makers as speakers, with stereopticon views and other means of illustrating the making of roads, is traveling over the 7,500 miles of the Frisco railway in the southwest, at a cost to that road of \$40,000.

The idea of running the good roads special over the Frisco system originated with Benjamin F. Yoakum, chairman of the Frisco lines. He has ever been a foremost advocate of highway improvement in the United States and has done much to encourage the building of permanent roads in the territory served by the lines of which he is the head. The running of the special train over the system at this time is indirectly the result of a suggestion made by Chairman Yoakum in a speech before the Oklahoma Farmers' Union at the Oklahoma State Fair last year in which he said:

"The farmer does not use his share of the money earned in the United States. There are now about 92 million people in the United States and about 23 million are farmers. The products of the farm are responsible for about one-third of the wealth and commerce of this country. No one can say that one-third of this is used for the betterment of the country districts. Compare the country roads full of mudholes with improved town streets. Look at the country wooden bridges in the towns. The farmer has borrowed but little money to improve his roads while the town people have borrowed immense sums of money to make their streets perfect.

"There is no work more important than to build good roads in such a manner that they will be permanent and economical in construction. Otherwise the money expended will be largely wasted. The question of improving our public roads in the most economical and substantial manner is one to which I attach much importance. Their construction for permanence is of such great importance that I extend an invitation to the president of the Farmers' Union and one other to each of the members of the Farmers' Union of Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Tennessee to make a trip for the study of public road building through the older states that have given this subject much thought and consideration.

"Massachusetts and Connecticut are spending much money in building good roads. New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana are also at work and making good headway. Through a careful study of the methods of building public roads, their foundation, material and systems of drainage, which are the three important factors to be considered, the members of this party will acquire a knowledge on the subject that will be helpful in their respective states in carrying on the work of public highway improvements."

MORE ABOUT ALFALFA

F. B. Gilmore recently completed the work of cutting his 20-acre field of alfalfa for the first time. This field is located just west of the city and is better known, perhaps, than any alfalfa field in this locality, lying as it does, along the main traveled road. Last fall the dry weather made it "look sick" and many people pronounced it "dead," but well-rooted alfalfa seems to have as many lives as a cat, for the first cutting this season, the work of which has just been completed, as stated above, yielded twenty-seven tons, or nearly one and one-half tons to the acre. The cost of cutting the twenty acres, according to Mr. Gilmore, was \$37.50 and the price at which it could have been sold at the time of cutting, was \$10.00 per ton, of \$270. After paying the cost of caring for the crop, \$37.50 Mr. Gilmore had left a net profit of a fraction over \$11.00 per acre, for the first cutting.—St. John News.

Ford county has over three million bushels of wheat. Lands will advance quickly. An extra good section in south part of county, about 475 acres good wheat, one third to quick buyer, fair improvements, \$20,000, about half cash. Lands around there selling much higher.

An extra good quarter section close to Dodge, unimproved, \$1,500, time on half. A. B. REEVES, 14-2w Dodge City, Kans.

A WOMAN WHO HIRED OUT TO HER HUSBAND FOR A VACATION.

The following letter won a prize of \$25 offered by the Woman's Home Companion for the best account of a vacation. It was written by a woman who lives on a farm in Wyoming:

"To begin with, then, I'm a rancher's wife, and was a farmer's daughter, so I know what it means to get up early and work till late. I've read a great deal about vacations, but not much about vacations for the woman on the ranch.

"Most women who live on a ranch know something about horses, and can harness and drive a team. Now everyone knows that to people who have always worked with their hands idleness is not rest, and that recreation comes quicker and surer from a change of work; so I 'hired out' to my husband.

"We have seventy-five acres of alfalfa, and here in the West men are scarce and wages are high, so I hired a girl to do the housework and take care of the children, while I donned a pair of overalls, a jumper, a broad-brimmed hat and a pair of stout gloves, and went forth to take my vacation.

"The first day I mowed, and the first night I kicked levers and drove horses all night. I wasn't so enthusiastic the second morning, but I mowed some more, and raked some, and that night I slept, and I slept every night that followed during harvest, for I stayed with it till the hay was in the stack, doing team work altogether, and when we were through, my husband said I was 'the best man on the job.'"

"I was decidedly a better woman, for I had gained five pounds of flesh, stronger nerves, harder muscles, and a coat of tan that hasn't all worn off yet.

"I told the girl that I was not to be consulted about anything, so I shifted the whole responsibility of the household and did just as the men did: washed, ate my meals, and then rested till time to start to work again.

"My girl cost me four dollars per week, and I made twelve, which left me a clear gain of eight dollars per week in cash, besides the other good things. I felt so rested when I took up the reins of the household again that what had before been a task was now a pleasure. Really, it did seem good to cook a meal once more and I had not thought it possible.

"And next year I'm going to do it all over again."

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Kansas City Stock Yards, June 17.—Smarting under their defeat of last week, when they were forced to add 30 to 50 cents to cattle values, buyers threatened at the end of the week to break the market fifty cents this week. Killers are being criticised for the high cost of meat, and would be glad to cheapen it. But the demand holds up well, as labor all over the country is pretty generally employed, and the call for meat is insistent, despite the high price. Small killers are scurrying about the country in search of cheap beef, and there is enough of them to keep the big killers dodging. It would be possible for packers to carry out a threat to break prices half a dollar, but it would be like a man staying under water, he could not stay there very long. Receipts at the five leading markets last week were one-third less than during the same week last year, a condition that might easily excuse the advance recorded. Various markets reported big runs of cattle today, with prospects favoring lower markets, but the run here was modest, 8,000 head, and in the native division everything sold strong and active, without a sign of the break threatened. A run of 180 cars of quarantines served as a reason for concessions from sellers there, running from weak to 10 lower, with the close of the market the best. Top natives sold at \$9.25 today, Colorado at \$9.00, Texas quarantines at \$8.10, grubs quarantines at \$5.00 to \$6.25. Hogs were received to the number of 6,000 head here, light for Monday, but lower markets elsewhere caused a decline of weak to 5 cents here, top \$7.45, same as top in Chicago today, bulk \$7.15 to \$7.40. Sheep and lambs sold steady today, best spring lambs \$8.75, five loads of Arizona wethers \$5.00, native ewes worth \$4.25. These prices are 25 cents above a week ago, except on lambs. The run is 11,000 today, containing a good share of low grade Texas and Arizona stuff.

J. A. RICKART, Market Correspondent.

Subscribe for The Democrat.

MEETING OF KANSAS FARMERS.

General "Improvement" Will Be Topic at a Big Topeka Convention.

The Kansas railroads are preparing to issue a call for a big convention of Kansas farmers to be held in Topeka next fall to discuss plans for a statewide movement to improve the acre yields in Kansas, the roads and the social life of the farmers. The call for the convention will be issued soon. It will be signed by officials of the leading railroads of the state and representative business men and farmers from each county of Kansas. The idea was started some time ago through the conferences between farmers over the state and J. R. Koontz, general freight agent of the Santa Fe. It will be one of the greatest gatherings of farmers and business men in the history of Kansas.

To increase the value of Kansas wheat 15 million dollars; to increase the value of Kansas corn 25 million dollars, and to lessen the cost of transportation over good roads are three of the leading topics that will come up. The call will ask that county conventions be held in July. At the county conventions delegates will be elected to the state convention, one delegate from each township.

"MONEY IN THE BANK."

Thirty million Americans have money in the bank. Have you money in the bank? Then you have a personal interest in the soundness of the banking system.

Bankers are the servants of the public. Their chief duty is the running of the machinery of credit. Credit is the life-blood of business. Nine-tenths of the business of the country is done on credit.

If the banking system breaks down, as ours did in 1907, and as it did in '73 and in '33, the machinery of credit stops—the industry and commerce of the country is paralyzed—workmen are thrown out of employment. The losses suffered by this country in panics are incalculable.

This periodic collapse of the machinery of credit in a rich country like ours is a national disgrace.

We have 23,000 banks in this country. The vast majority of them are sound banks, conducting their business on sound banking principles. Our banking resources are in excess of those of any other country in the world. We have the greatest stock of gold of any country in the world.

But we have today no system of co-operation between these 23,000 banks, whereby they may use their enormous resources and this great stock of precious metal most effectively for the common good—especially in times of commercial distress.

The suspension of cash payments by the banks and the collapse of credit over the entire country in 1907—a catastrophe impossible in Europe in a time of peace—was due, not to the weakness of the banks, but to the weakness of the banking system.

If we are to make our credit machinery as efficient as that of other world commercial powers, and if we are to prevent in the future the disastrous losses of money panics, we must remedy the recognized evils in our banking system.

It is the duty of every bank depositor, every manufacturer, every merchant, every farmer, every wage earner, to do his part in bringing about this reform, so vital to the interests of all the people of the country.

It is a non-partisan question that ought to be settled without appealing to the passions and prejudices of partisan politics.

You can show your interest by writing a personal letter to your congressman, telling him that you are a bank depositor and have a personal interest in legislation which will give this country the best banking system in the world.

CAMPAIGN AND ELECTION.

Probably the most interesting campaign and election in the history of the country will be held this summer and fall.

If you want all the news in detail each day without prejudice, here is your opportunity.

The Topeka State Journal A home product, and published at the capital of your state, is one of the largest daily newspapers in Kansas, and will be sent you each day from now until November 15, 1912, for \$1.00.

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TOPEKA STATE JOURNAL, Topeka, Kansas.

COAL FIRE FOR HIS PIGS.

E. D. King Has Novel Way of Saving the Youngsters; Has 600 Despite Bad Weather.

By sitting up nights with his pigs, and keeping a coal stove going in his breeding pens during the cold weather last February and March, E. D. King, Berkshire hog breeder, of Burlington, Kas., made out very well in raising a fine pig crop. As a result of all this special effort, Mr. King now has a drove of 600 thrifty pigs.

"And they are going to be worth good money before this time next year," he said, after selling a carload of hogs recently. "Reports from all over the country show a light spring crop. I kept the coal fire going, and kept the pigs warm, and that was what saved them. Young pigs cannot stand chilly weather."

"I give my hogs special care at all times. I feed them tankage, which I regard as a splendid regulator, and when mixed with other feed is also a fat producer. The hog requires a certain amount of animal food, and the tankage furnishes it."

Mr. King is owner of what is known as the Meadow Brook farm, one of the best kept farms in that country.

A STRANGE HOG EXPERIENCE

C. W. Gilman of Lockwood, Mo., extensive land owner and farmer, who is also president of the Bank of Lockwood, calls attention to the fact that the farmer and stock raiser is constantly coming in contact with some new experience. This statement was suggested when Mr. Gilman sold 154 head of good hogs, recently, raised on his farm.

"That is a good many hogs to market from a farm at one time," he said. "And it is more than I can market from my farm again for a good while. Early this spring when the sows began to farrow I noticed their pigs disappeared. Sometimes they would be several days or perhaps several weeks old, when they would be missing. In order to find out where they went I watched, and to my great surprise I found the sows killing and eating their own pigs. In some cases the pigs were six weeks old before this occurred. The sows were large and good stock, but I had to fatten them and sell all of them. In all of my hog raising experience, I never had anything like this happen. It has cleaned me out of pigs."

NEW SPEED MARKS SET FOR REPLACING TIRES

All the Cars But One in 500 Mile Indianapolis Speedway Race Equipped With Michellins.

One of the interesting features of the Memorial Day race of 500 miles at the Indianapolis Speedway was the rapid manner in which tires were changed. With one exception all the cars to finish were equipped with Michelin tires. One Michelin was changed on the winning National in thirty seconds, hardly giving the driver time to get a drink of water.

Two men in the press stand timed a change on De Palma's car in twenty three seconds, and if this is true another speed record was established. The Michelin Company has followed racing closely and with marked success. Tires must wear out in the strain of a 500-mile race in which cars are travelling at a speed of eighty miles an hour, but it is no less significant that the winning cars in long distance races are nearly always appointed with Michelin.

EXPOSITION NOTES.

San Diego plans to have her exposition buildings complete by January 1, 1914, that the landscape gardeners may have a whole year to decorate it with trees, vines and flowers, before the gates are opened January 1, 1915. It will remain open the entire year of 1915.

Sir Thomas Lipton plans to have a model tea garden and packing plant at San Diego's exposition. He agrees to remove the packed tea as fast as it is wrapped and to bring tea plants from Ceylon for the garden.

Which is the most interesting, a long list of intricate machinery standing behind a railing idle and dust covered, or a Navajo squaw weaving a brilliant blanket as her ancestral mothers wove it? The San Diego exposition will have the women weaving the blanket, but not the intricate machinery.

Wanted—Another Julius Caesar, to push construction of good roads. He made "all roads lead to Rome."

Auto toll roads are the order of the day. Companies building these highways may expect a big profit from their investment.

One of the sights along the road between Buena Vista and Taylor Park, Colorado, is a band of 200 mountain sheep. It may be seen any day.

Of the 4,000 high school pupils in the city of Denver, only 40 yearly elect to take up the study of Greek. The others don't like the "grind."

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Archaeological exhibits at the San Diego exposition in 1915 will attract the attention of the world. It will be an educational show.

Las Vegas will have a one-day performance July 4. San Diego will have a 365-day show in 1915 when the doors of the Panama-California exposition will be open to the world.

To stop speeding through small towns by auto drivers, heedless of the lives and limbs of children and citizens, a Western genius suggests that bumps in the roads at the outskirts and also inside the town limits be made. These bumps will compel the speed fiends to slow up.

Dr. Edgar L. Hewett, head of the School of American Archaeology at Santa Fe, and director of exhibits at the San Diego Exposition, has returned from Guatemala where he secured interesting Maya relics for the exposition, as well as data of great scientific value. A replica of the Maya temple is being prepared for the San Diego Exposition.

An alfalfa exposition is something new in the line of expositions. Such a show, however, is scheduled for Basin City, Wyo., this fall. Visitors will see alfalfa meal, alfalfa breakfast foods of many varieties, alfalfa buns, alfalfa pies, alfalfa pudding and probably, alfalfa cigars. A similar display of alfalfa products will be seen at the Panama-California exposition in San Diego in 1915.

Wall-eyed pike are being introduced into lakes in the state of Washington to exterminate the German carp. The carp destroys millions of game fish eggs every year in these and other western lakes. It is promised

that the pike will feed on the carp.

A secret organization of suffragettes in Colorado is demanding more high offices for members of their sex. They say they will send Mrs. Sarah Platt Decker to Congress.

Secretary of State James B. Pearce of Colorado is a consistent booster for good roads. He says he would like to see millions spent for interstate and intercontinental highways and that such expenditure will bring millions of dollars in return. "The completion of broad and easy highways," says Secretary Pearce, "thru the West to California will mean the expending of immense sums of money all along the line from the Missouri river to San Diego and San Francisco during the year 1915, by people who will travel in autos to the international expositions in those two cities." Pres. E. E. Sommers, of the Greater Colorado Highways association, and Pres. Rob't Higgins, of the Colorado Good Roads association, are now working in harmony to secure good roads for Colorado and the West. They have the co-operation of good roads associations and clubs in Kansas, Wyoming, Utah and Idaho.

FOR SALE.

Team of Shetland ponies and harness, four years old, bays, broke.

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